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Letter dated 1 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a press release issued by Pakistan's National Command Authority (NCA) after its meeting on 14 July 2011 (see annex). NCA is the highest decision-making body on strategic issues and is chaired by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97.

(*Signed*) Raza Bashir **Tarar**
Acting Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

14 July 2011

The National Command Authority (NCA) met today under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. Members of NCA, including Federal Ministers, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Service Chiefs, the Secretary of NCA, the Director General of the Strategic Plans Division, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

NCA comprehensively reviewed developments in the regional and global security environment. NCA also undertook detailed appraisal of the international and regional trends and policies and their implications for Pakistan.

After in-depth consideration and evaluation, NCA, inter alia, decided that Pakistan will continue to pursue its policy of credible minimum deterrence as a responsible nuclear weapons State. NCA expressed satisfaction at the security and safety of Pakistan's strategic programmes and facilities. It also expressed confidence in the operational readiness of Pakistan's strategic weapons.

NCA expressed concern over the continued pursuit of policies that detract from the globally shared norms and rules of equality, inclusiveness and objectivity. NCA cautioned that such policies represent regression in the non-proliferation regime and tend to erode the strategic balance in South Asia. Pakistan would continue to take appropriate countermeasures to ensure its security and to maintain regional stability.

NCA reiterated Pakistan's desire to constructively contribute to the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons and to the goals of non-proliferation on the basis of equality and partnership with the international community. Accordingly, Pakistan was keen to join the four export control arrangements.

NCA reaffirmed the importance of nuclear safety. In this regard, it noted with satisfaction the safety review of all the existing and planned civil nuclear facilities by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA). NCA directed PNRA and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission to continue to ensure that our programmes conform to the highest levels of safety and international best practices.

NCA was also briefed on the nuclear security review undertaken recently. It expressed confidence in the institutionalized Command and Control System and comprehensive measures put in place to ensure reliability and security of strategic assets. NCA underlined that the Government and the people of Pakistan stood solidly behind the country's nuclear and missile programmes, which would be pursued to maintain effective, reliable and credible deterrence capability, and all attempts to undermine this capability would be thwarted with full force.

As part of the energy security strategy, NCA also reviewed and approved the futuristic, self-sustaining Nuclear Power Programme — 2050, to meet the existing energy shortfalls and to respond to the future requirements of a growing population

and economy. NCA emphasized the need to focus on socio-economic development of the people as a foremost priority.

The NCA also approved Pakistan's Space Programme — 2040 in order to bring the benefits of the full spectrum of space technology to the people of Pakistan.